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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Two years have passed, but we have not forgotten. America will never forget the evil attack on September 11, 2001. But let us not be overwhelmed by repeated TV images that bring back paralyzing fear and make us vulnerable once again. Instead, in a moment of silence, let us stand tall and be one with the thousands of faces lost in the dust; let us hold in our minds those who still moan over the hole in their lives.

With pride and purpose let us recall survivors and ordinary heroes and heroines who came to rescue, carry, heal, lift up, tear down, pray confidently, and create anew. With determined faith and heartfelt compassion, let us today be united in silent prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLAKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, we come here today to remember the tragedy of 2 years ago and remember the changes that it has made in our country.

Two years ago this morning, early in the morning, a beautiful day, much like today, we were at the end of a fairly long period of time in this country when there was a sense that there really was no role that only the Federal Government could perform, that many things that were done could be done at better places. By noon on this day 2 years ago, there was an understanding that there were some jobs that had to be done on behalf of all of us, from those of us who had the responsibility to work here in the Nation's Capitol. America was changed that day.

I am pleased that the Congress has responded in the way it has, to quickly act in the environment that the founders did not intend to be quick, to even on that week 2 years ago respond and still today to have the ongoing concerns of establishing a new department, of facing our enemies in the world, of reaching out and putting our arms around those who suffered the tragedies of September 11.

Certainly, that was a moment that changed America, a moment that changed this Congress, and it was a moment that changed the world. That was a moment that we recognize not just in silence but we recognize today in our activities all over the globe, at home and abroad to ensure that the enemies of freedom never prevail, and those who love freedom always know that they have strong friends in the United States of America and that we intend to be the symbol for freedom and free people everywhere.

REMEMBER THE TRAGEDY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is my counterpart in this House. It is his responsibility to organize his party to vote on issues of importance to this country and to express their views. And on my side of the aisle, it is my responsibility to organize my party to express our views. At times, that is extraordinarily contentious and we demonstrate to the American public, and indeed to the world, sometimes deep differences.

But the gentleman from Missouri is my friend, he is my fellow citizen of this greatest of democracies and nations. And on September 11, 2 years ago, he and I and our colleagues were on this hill, and we heard that there was a plane coming towards this city. It was in the context of one plane hitting the north tower and one plain hitting the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York. On that day, there were no Republicans, there were no Democrats, there were no liberals, there were no conservatives. There were Americans. There were representatives of 280 million people elected to serve this great Nation.

Today, we are as one with our President and with our people in remembering, remembering those whom we lost from this Nation, and indeed from nations around the world. We remember the heroism of those brave citizens on that plane over Pennsylvania, determined that the information they had received about terrorists taking down buildings would not be allowed by them to happen as a result of the plane that they were on being crashed into what we ultimately conclude was either this building, the center of democracy, or the White House, the House of the leader of the free world.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as we remember, as we reflect, we renew our resolve that we will confront terrorism; that in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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